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United States Patent [19]**Kawami et al.**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,882,761**[45] **Date of Patent:** ***Mar. 16, 1999**[54] **ORGANIC EL ELEMENT**[75] Inventors: **Shin Kawami; Hitoshi Nakada**, both of Tsurugashima; **Takemi Naito**, Yonezawa, all of Japan[73] Assignees: **Pioneer Electronic Corporation**, Tokyo-to; **Tohoku Pioneer Electronic Corporation**, Yamagata-ken, both of Japan

[*] Notice: This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).

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[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **H01J 1/52**[52] **U.S. Cl.** **428/69; 428/76; 428/917; 252/301.16; 313/506; 313/512**[58] **Field of Search** 428/69, 76, 917; 252/301.16; 313/506, 512[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**4,229,709 10/1980 McMahan 331/94.5
4,318,722 3/1982 Altman 62/3**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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An organic electro-luminescent element is provided with a drying substance contained in an airtight container and spaced from the element in an internal space of the airtight container for absorbing moisture in the internal space. The drying substance comprises a solid compound which chemically absorbs the moisture and maintains its solid state even after absorbing the moisture.

15 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet